

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education

September 16, 2014

1:00 pm

State Capitol

Room 112

Sacramento, California 95814

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Michael Cohen, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Mollie Quasebarth, Department of Finance staff, called the roll. The following members were present:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Constance Carroll
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Chair Cohen declared a quorum present.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Cohen presented an overview of the Administration's priorities for higher education. Following his remarks, committee members made opening comments. Members discussed types of innovations that may be of interest to the committee, such as those focused on technology and those emphasizing efforts to close achievement gaps.

III. Agenda Items

Item A: Overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education—Information

Christian Osmeña, Department of Finance staff, presented the item.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. The following individuals made comments: Susan Lovenburg, Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Paul Granillo, Andrea Deveau, Lande Ajose, Chantel Johnson, Jason MacCannell, Julia Lopez, and Christopher Cabaldon.

Item B: Delegation of Authority to the Department of Finance—Action

Mr. Osmeña presented the item and read the following staff recommendations:

1. The committee designates the appropriate employees of the Department of Finance, as determined by the Director of Finance, as staff to the committee for all purposes, including for the purposes of preparing recommendations for committee action.
2. The committee designates the Chief Counsel and each staff counsel employed by the Department of Finance as legal counsel to the committee.

Member Lozano moved to approve the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Member Carroll.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. No comments were made.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Constance Carroll
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

Item C: Approval of Form of Application and Application Ranking Criteria—Action

Mr. Osmeña presented the item and read the following staff recommendation:

1. The committee approves the form of application instructions included as Addendum 1 to Item C of the agenda for the committee's meeting on September 16, 2014, and authority for staff to take any necessary actions or make technical edits or corrections to the form of application consistent with the committee's action. The committee also approves the application ranking criteria included in Addendum 1.

Following committee discussion, Chair Cohen suggested that the four sections in the application package be given the following weights for the purpose of evaluating and ranking the applications:

- *Context section:* 10 points.
- *Innovations section:* 40 points.
- *Sustainability section:* 35 points.
- *Evaluation section:* 15 points.

Following committee discussion, Chair Cohen suggested inclusion of language in the application package to emphasize the committee's intent that encouraging efforts to close student achievement gaps is a priority.

Member Carroll requested that, in the language describing Item 1 of the application package, the committee indicate that a strong application would illustrate how the goals established by the applicant address student equity.

Member Carroll also requested that more recognition be given to innovations made prior to January 10, 2014.

Member Faigin expressed concerns regarding the role of staff in the committee's responsibility to decide award recipients and award amounts.

Member Lozano requested that the list of examples of innovation be moved to an appendix.

Chair Cohen recommended that the committee delay approval of the staff recommendation and directed staff to revise the application package consistent with the committee's discussion and schedule a meeting for the committee to consider the revised application package.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. The following individuals made comments: Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Paula Santana, Robert Shireman, Mark Novak, Julia Lopez, and Cheri Cruz.

Item D: Schedule of Future Meetings—Action

Mr. Osmeña presented the item and read the staff recommendation:

1. The committee will meet in Sacramento on the following dates: March 20, 2015; April 27, 2015; and May 22, 2015, if necessary.

Member Avalos indicated that the May 22, 2015 meeting was scheduled over the Memorial Day holiday. Chair Cohen noted that the committee could schedule a third meeting at a later time if necessary.

Member Carroll moved the staff recommendation, with an amendment to strike "May 22, 2015, if necessary" from the text of the recommendation and to direct staff to schedule another meeting to consider approval of the application package. The motion was seconded by Member Florez.

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. No comments were made.

The committee approved the motion as follows:

Ayes:

Michael Cohen, Chair
Arnoldo Avalos
Constance Carroll
Douglas Faigin
Dean Florez
Monica Lozano

Nays:

None

IV. Public Comment

Chair Cohen asked for public comment. No comments were made.

V. Adjournment

Chair Cohen adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.